

MILADY LINGERIE

BROCADES FASHION
STYLISH PETTICOATS

Charming Devices That Aid in Maintaining a Slender Silhouette - Strings, Gathers and Bands are Eliminated From the Waistline - Peignoirs and Boudoir Gowns - Negligees.

Have you realized what a change has come over the class and character of garments that make their appearance about this time on all the counters of high-class shops? No? Well, it is "enlightening and edifying," as the old-time New England schoolmarm used to say, to take an hour just to stroll through some good department stores and devote the best part of that time to the lingerie section.

In such shops as employ display figures one notes instantly what an amount of importance is given to the set of undergarments around the hip and waistline. Everything possible is done, even in those of moderate price, to eliminate all bands and strings and shirring, anything that even savors of bulk or clumsiness at the waistline.

Of course, one's nightie is an exception to this rule; but even here there are some charming examples that are really more than a trifle reminiscent of the princess pattern, and in which the waistline is made to bear its due share in the design.

The needs of the stout sisterhood have long received loving attention at the hands of the lingerie designer; but hitherto, it must be confessed, that it was largely in the matter of extra material, bigger bands and wider ruffles that the requirements of a too, too solid flesh were heeded.

But now the same delightful banishment of bulk and clumsiness is brought into play for the stout as well as for the slender, and there are all sorts of combination garments, "telescoped undergarments," as one witty woman calls it, in which the sister of much superfluous flesh can appear as though she had somehow miraculously managed to shed a goodly quantity of what she could dispense with so gladly.

That fad or fashion of the low bust corset and the bloused shirtwaist has much to answer for in the general air of slovenliness and even sloppiness which many stout women manage to present, even when they are gotten up in their very best bid and tucker. Seldom is there a large woman who will consent to lace herself in even for a moment, and that combination of low-bust corset and bloused shirtwaist was really too tempting not to be indulged in to the permanent loss of the smart lines of the figure in all too many cases. Like so many other of the latest fads, it was intended merely for the svelte and slender figure that possessed an alert and youthful grace of its own. Never was it intended that the stout sisterhood should even attempt, much less adopt, this style; but adopt it they did, and that with a wholeheartedness that has made many a corsetiere almost weep since over the ruin of figures that it wrought.

The corsetieres were the first to introduce the supporting corset cover or brassiere, not the least of which is its delightful luxuriance. When one can obtain a well-cut and daintily finished garment of this kind for exchange for a single dollar bill, then the woman whose bust measurement exceeds the 38-inch mark may have to excuse left for appearing sloppy and slouchy beneath her blouse. And the joy of this special design is that the closer one draws it around the waistline the better it supports the bust, the straighter must the shoulders be carried and the higher the chest. Those to whom nature has been generous in the matter of bust simply cannot do without this charming device, since it altogether offsets the tendency to sagging that is so noticeable when one of those loose little French corset covers is worn, and the slender sisterhood are learning that their frocks at better and present a smarter appearance when worn over this well-detailed garment.

But it is in the combination garments that the most welcome novelties are to be found. One can have two or three piece combinations, and the latter are really the newest and most effective things that have appeared for a long time. The corset cover and pantalon, the brassiere and pantalon, respectively, for the slender and the stouter sisterhood,

are in the best makes so cleverly designed that there is a bias line all around the waist, so that the garment adjusts itself automatically to the lines of the figure, and that without any bunchiness or thickness, either.

And, by the way, these same pantalon sets are not any kith or kin to what we have hitherto been wearing under that name. The new ones are all of circular cut, without any darts or seams or gathers anywhere at the waist—if one excepts a couple of tiny pleats right in the center of the back, where they are really rather an advantage than otherwise—and measure anywhere from a yard and a half to two yards around the knee. In wear they are more like a divided skirt than anything else, and that is just about what they really are.

One very clever garment is a combination brassiere, in effect a four-piece garment, has the corset cover and pantalon made after the ideas just described; the brassiere is lightly boned, the back crossing over in such a way as to do away with the ugly ridge where the corset leaves off. The pantalon is of circular cut, attached to the brassiere with a single seam, and fitting without a wrinkle. Because of its full circular cut it answers every purpose of the underpetticoat. It may be worn with the knit combination in winter and with only the gauze vest and

corset in summer.

And the matter of fit is just as important when the frilly and fluffy silk skirt or petticoat comes to be considered. The specialty shops offer to rent those for a dollar, or so, and to the woman who is not handy with her needle this is an offer not to be despised. Where it is at all possible it were well to have this item made to order, and a comparatively inexpensive seamstress can usually turn out quite presentable specimens. One clever girl whose income is of the very limited order has two petticoat tops—one in black and one in white. Those are of the five-gored pattern that sets closely over the hips and fits fully as well as a dress skirt can. They are made in plain and full length, faced on the under side with percaleine and finished with a bias velvet-percaline and finished with a bias velvet-percaline. Then there are any number of flounces that are attached to this skirt, varying to suit the needs of her toilette. Quite an original device she uses for their attachment. This consists in the running of a stout torchon heading at appropriate depths on the foundation skirt and a single one on the top of the separate flounce. Then with a gros grain bebe ribbon and a bodkin the flounce is attached, the ribbon being run through both bands simultaneously, and, presto! the flounce is safely and securely attached in an instant or two without the bother and insecurity of hooks and eyes, or the labor

of buttons and buttonholes.

The peignoir, or boudoir gown, as it is coming to be called, may be of almost any material, provided only that it be of dainty design and not too elaborate in character. Some charming ones are fashioned of simple silks, trimmed with cascades of lace and finished with a few effective ribbon bows with floating ends.

Lingerie Matinee and Reche-Pleated Skirt.

To the fastidious there is nothing like lingerie materials for those intimate little possessions of the wardrobe. The cleansing tub of the laundress has no terrors for them, and they are always available for wear—clean, fresh and as good as new after a visit to the laundry. Their making is a simple matter, for the square yoke is really the foundation of them all. To this the body of the garment is attached after any of a hundred different ways, and the sleeve may be long or short, as best liked. The pretty one photographed will afford a clever suggestion. The skirt is of a black sate silk, closely fitted at the hips, but to flare well from the knee down. The flounce is accented by a band of white ruchings of the silk at close intervals. This makes an excellent pattern for a walking skirt to be worn under a tallormade gown that clears the ground all around.



A NOVELTY IN PETTICOATS



LINGERIE MATINEE

Some Jottings At Random.

Cut Glass is finding many new and novel uses, and to a great extent is beginning to replace the sterling silver and the plated ware that has found such favor with housekeepers.

There is nothing so effective for lighting up a table as are cut-glass candlesticks, and a hotel in New York that prides itself upon its exclusiveness has replaced all of its plated candlesticks with really beautiful ones of cut glass. This house uses but the one style candle, invariably a creamy yellow tint with a tracing of gold wandering all over its fluted length, the steward insisting that this type will go with any style or color of table decorations.

Charming electroliers, too, in cut glass are to be seen, while as for the table appointments that are turned out in this many faceted ware there is simply no end to them. Fruit knives and forks, fish sets, carvers, game sets and such are made now with cut-glass handles and steel cutting parts. The most fastidious housekeepers are rejecting the silver-plated knife blades altogether in favor of the steel one, a thing for which one ought to be devoutly thankful, since the process of silver-plating the blade invariably takes the temper out of the steel.

Rather a novel employment for a woman is that filled in one of the best hotels in New York by a former member of the smartest society in the American colony in Paris. Owing to her many and amusing accomplishments she has always been in great demand whenever entertainments of any kind were given by her friends—any of those she had legion. Now, when her first youth is passed and her fortune gone with it, she occupies a private office in the administration department of said hotel, and while the management refers to her as "consultant" she is really more of a style critic for the house. She peruses the hanging of pictures, the draping of curtains, the selection of lace—for this house has quantities of household laces of all sorts—but, above and beyond all, her chief task is decorations.

The many women's societies, patriotic and otherwise, make it a fad to hold their luncheons and other entertainments at this house, and to the elderly spinster belongs the task of decorating the rooms for such occasions. Such odd and original conceits as she displays make her invaluable, and there is a strong demand for her services in the set among which she used to move in the days of yore. True to her Yankee independence, however, she claims that her services belong only to the hotel, and no amount of coaxing, no largesse of fee, will tempt her to devote her talents to other than her present employers. "No private engagements accepted," reads the card hung on her office wall.

Cut Glass Buttons are shown at the jeweler's nowadays, with shanks of sterling silver whereby they are attached to the garment. Really beautiful specimens of the cutter's art are sold for \$5 apiece; while for twice that sum one can have a cut glass button with the deep cutting filled with a silver tracing. It is said that women are being accepted as apprentices in the glass cutting shops abroad, the privilege being limited to the daughters or sisters of workers in good standing at the factory.

Planted Plants in bloom are being sent out from the florists on many occasions where formerly nothing but cut flowers were supposed to meet requirements. There is something in a flowering plant that makes it peculiarly acceptable as a gift; and the fact that it will keep indefinitely, renew its blossoms frequently, makes it a lasting possession, if but good care be taken of it.

Plantagenists, with its brilliant array of yellow blossoms—it really is a form of the Scotch and Irish broom—camellias, with their waxen blossoms, meteor and ramblers roses, fairy-looking cyclamens, the brilliant pansies, and now round pots of lilacs of the valley are what the best florists in New York are sending out.

Russian Laces and embroideries are commanding considerable appreciation and comment where household linens and laces are the topic. The square-meshed flet laces are wonderfully durable, but their beauty shows up far better in the large, rather than in the small, pieces. They are pillow laces, all of them, and the workers weave the bobbin in and out of the pins with a rapidity that bewilders the looker-on. The centers are always of hand-woven linen, the insertion and borders of the national type of lace, with its figures of men, birds and animals appearing in the relief upon the open-meshed background.

THE NEW CORSET SILHOUETTE

Filmy Fabrics for Spring. Chiffon Qualities Evident Everywhere - Dainty Checks and Open Plaids Very Popular.

The promise of springtime is in every shop window, albeit the thermometer is low and the mercury congealing around the freezing point most of the time.

All of the smart shops along the avenue are showing gauzy weaves in silk and cotton for Southern wear, and women who are really more interested in things for present use where the sun does not shine nearly so warmly find it a hard matter to interest even their favorite saleswomen in their present needs.

While the favored few who expect to put in their Lenten season at Southern resorts are ordering liberally of gauzy cotton fabrics, sate silks, tulies and nets, there is, nevertheless, strong interest displayed in the gowns that fill the between seasons so acceptably.

The coat and skirt suit is taking to itself some of the most charming manifestations that have been seen in many moons. Seldom or never is the long coat displayed; all of the new models are as short and snappy as the tailor can turn out. The entire gamut of fit is presented, from the loose and short-waisted affair that is usually represented as belonging to the Empire period to the close-fitting, double-breasted garment that is decidedly mannish in cut and strongly suggestive of a masculine frock coat.

In the cloths that the best tailors employ it is in color rather than in weave that novelty occurs. Sate-finished broad cloths find favor with the most fastidious, and this for plain and severe morning tailor-mades as well as for the more elaborate gowns that appear at afternoon functions.

The morning conceits that are such a fad this season afford delightful opportunity to study what the elegantes are wearing. One sees chiffon broadcloth liberally trimmed with velvet and lace, and, indeed, in many instances it is hard to decide whether the gown is of cloth or of velvet, so closely are the two intermingled.

There is evidently a strong liking for all of the rose shades in cloth, and this is shared likewise by the new coteen poplins and Irish weaves that Queen Alexandra has done much to make fashionable. Everything from the faintest pink on through the coral tints and running down

to the deepest and richest Jacquemont tint, the rose tints are really the fashionable fad of the hour.

These little checks that have been with us for several seasons now are back once more with all of their pristine popularity undiminished. Here, too, the glamor of new colorings goes far to hide the lack of other novelty; and there are some charming fruit tints that alternate with white which cannot fail to win approval from even the most discerning in moiré. These are especially attractive while the large and open plaids serve to bring the coarser and heavier silkenesses to the front once more.

That those shadow plaids are altogether retired is cause for gratulation, for surely no weirder looking materials have ever made a bid for popular acceptance. Their place, however, is acceptably filled in the new open plaids, where large squares are marked off with delicate colorings. There is no doubt but that the tailor will make up those novel weaves in skirts that will disguise the plaid pattern by many and overlapping pleats. Indeed, it is already an accepted fact that skirted skirts are to rule in the realm of the tailor-made, while frills and flounces galore are to be the dressmaker's province.

Coming into the realm of dressier frocks there are some exquisitely pretty colorings offered in the new silks. As in the broadcloths, one sees quite a preference for yellow tones decidedly expressed. Everything from a creamy apricot shade, on through the mustard tints until they reach the glowing shade of golden copper, there are sate silks, failies, regence, suitings and others whose mission it is to fascinate towns for circumstance.

Lansdown, a silk and wool weave of very fine serge-like quality, is receiving much attention at present. It is neither so thin as crepe de chine or double chiffon, nor so heavy as taffetas, yet it has a faculty of fitting into the places of either of these materials, as well as a number of distinctive uses all its own. The line of shades in this material are particularly fascinating, including the tones of tan and the new leather tints that are to be the smartest of the smart in colors this spring.